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ME 636 MS 640 World (Transcultural) Evangelism

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ME 636/MS640
A SYLLABUS AND GENERAL GUIDE FOR

"World (Transcultural) Evangelism"

Fall Semester, 2003

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In an age of increasing mobility across cultural boundaries it becomes more and more necessary to understand the Christian faith from a global perspective. Several issues, therefore, will be addressed in this course. Primarily, how do we make decisions regarding that which is essential for Christian commitment across cultural lines? How do we detach ourselves from parts of our gospel understanding that may be culturally bound? How can we sensitize ourselves to issues that transcend cultural boundaries that might actually assist our communication of a relevant transcultural gospel?

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. A broader understanding of what is cross-cultural and transcultural. **Cross-cultural** relates to boundaries (at home and abroad) that force concepts and ideologies to be communicated differently. **Transcultural** relates to concepts and ideologies that communicate with similar to equal effectiveness across cultural boundaries (at home and abroad).

B. A clearer understanding of the theological essentials relevant to the gospel.

C. A study of anthropological and contextual (both de-culturing and re-culturing) considerations.

D. Some practical experience in witnessing in a cross-cultural settings.

III. TOPIC LISTINGS AND SEQUENCE : (subject to modification).

Week of Sept 1: Religion and Culture: The Rationale.

Assignment: Tuttle, the entire book.

Week of Sept. 8: The Biblical Mandate.

Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 9-58.

Kraft, pp. 1-42.

Week of Sept. 15: Theological Essentials.

Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 61-137.

Kraft, pp. 45-99.

Week of Sept. 23: Anthropological Considerations.

Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 141-224.
Kraft, pp. 103-166.

Week of Oct. 6: Transcultural Common Denominators.
Assignment: Hiebert, pp. 227-298.
Kraft, pp. 169-257.

Week of Oct. 13: Church in Culture.
Assignment: Kraft, pp. 261-312.

Week of Oct. 20: A Possible Key, The Need to Measure Up.
Assignment: Kraft, pp. 315-387.
Richardson, pp. 9-72.
A Case Study.

Week of Oct. 27: A Universal Gospel.
Assignment: Richardson, pp. 73-109.
A Case Study.

Week of Nov. 3: Christian Lifestyles.
Assignment: Richardson, pp. 111-150. Jenkins, pp. 1-78.

A Case Study.

Week of Nov 10: Contextualization: De-culturing.
Assignment: Richardson, pp. 151-219. Jenkins, pp. 79-162.

Week of Nov. 17: Contextualization: Re-culturing.
Assignment: Jenkins, pp. 163-220.
The first of the 3-4 pp. papers
(see COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES).
FALL READING WEEK (NOV. 24-28)

Week of Dec 1: The Principles Applied.
Assignment: From the collateral reading (pp. 200).

Week of Dec. 8: Conclusions and Review.
Assignment: The second 3-4 pp. paper
(see COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES).

Week of Dec. 15: EXAM WEEK (NO CLASSES)

IV. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Requirements:

- A. Attend and participate in class sessions.
- B. Complete assigned readings of approximately 1200 pages (1,000 pages in the required texts), and at least one text from the collateral reading (for the remaining 200 pages).
- C. Three case studies using the prepared forms (to be explained).
- D. Two papers (3-4 pages each)--one describing the parts of the gospel essential for Christian commitment across cultural lines; another describing at least two or three of the unique issues at stake in the effective communication of the gospel in a culture other than your own.

Grading scale for the course: Class participation: 10%

Cases: 10% each= 30%

Papers: 30% each=60%

No Final Exam

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Paul Hiebert, Anthropological Insight for Missionaries.

Philip Jenkins, The Next Christendom. Oxford, 2002.

Charles Kraft, Christianity and Culture.

Don Richardson, Eternity in Their Hearts.

Robert Tuttle, Jr., Can We Talk?

COLLATERAL:

Anderson & Stransky, eds., Evangelization: Mission Trends # 2. A source book of essays on theologies and strategies of evangelism on six continents. Paulist Press, 1975.

James Armstrong, From the Underside: Evangelism from a Third World Vantage Point. Orbis Books, 1981.

Barrett and Johnson, World Christian Trends, AD 30-AD2200, William Carey Library, 2001.

Carman & Dawe, eds., Christian Faith in a Religiously Plural World. Orbis Books, 1980.

John Cobb, Christ in a Pluralistic Age. Westminster, 1975.

Orlando Costas, Christ Outside the Gate: Mission Beyond Christendom. Orbis, 1982.

John Dekker, Torches of Joy.

David Hesselgrave, Communicating Christ Cross-culturally. Zondervan, 1978.

Hesselgrave & Rommen, Contextualization: Meanings, Methods, and Models. Baker, 1989.

Arthur Johnston, The Battle for World Evangelism. Tyndale, 1978.

Marvin Mayers, Christianity Confronts Culture: A Strategy for Cross-Cultural Evangelism (revised edition). Zondervan, 1974.

Brian McLaren, More Ready than You Realize.

Leslie Newbigin, The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society. Eerdmans, 1989.